

BOROUGH OF CALNE

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1950

BOROUGH OF CALNE

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st December, 1950

Public Health Officers of the Authority

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.,

(who is in addition Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural Districts of Calne and Chippenham, and Malmesbury.)

(b) SANITARY INSPECTOR

T. V. OLIVER, M.I. Mun. E., M.S.I.A.

(who in addition holds the post of Borough Surveyor)



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29087430>

To:—The Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors, of the Borough of Calne.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1950. This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 112/50 dated 6th. Dec., 1950.

I am grateful to Mr Oliver for his help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1950

Area (in acres)	1276
Population	5,520
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950 according to Rate Book)	1703
Rateable Value	£32,239
Sum represented by 1d. Rate (estimated)	£128 9 5

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000	Rate per 1000 E & W
LIVE BIRTHS					
Legitimate	52	41	93		
Illegitimate	—	1	1		
TOTAL	52	42	94		
BIRTH RATE				17.0	15.8
STILL BIRTHS	—	2	2	0.36	0.37
DEATHS	28	27	55		
DEATH RATE				9.7	11.6
DEATHS FROM:—					
Childbirth	—	—	—		
Pregnancy	—	—	—		
Abortion	—	—	—		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR					
Legitimate	1	—	1	10.6	29.8
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS					
Legitimate	—	—	—		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
DEATHS FROM :—					
Malignant Neoplasm (all ages)	2	3	5		
Measles (all ages)	—	—	—		
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—		
Influenza	—	—	—		
Respiratory Dis.	1	4	5		
Heart Diseases and Blood vessels	19	14	33		

The Birth Rate for 1950 shows an increase, and the Death Rate shows a decrease as compared with the previous year, when the rates expressed per 1000 of population were 14.9 and 14.1 respectively.

It is gratifying to note also that the percentage of deaths of infants under one year has fallen sharply as compared with 1949, when the rate per 1000 related live births was 24.6.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning) occurring during the year 1950.

Disease.			Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	1
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	24	—
Measles	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	2	2
Typhoid Fever	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia			1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			—	—

The two case of Poliomyelitis notified were subsequently confirmed. Both cases recovered after hospital treatment.

Deaths from all Causes

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis Respiratory	—	—	—
Tuberculosis other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm breast	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	—	—	—
Leukaemia aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	1	2
Coronary dis. angina	8	7	15
Hypertension with heart dis.	1	—	1
Other heart disease	9	6	15
Other circulatory disease	1	3	4
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	4	4
Bronchitis	—	—	—
Other disease of resp. sys.	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach & Duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined & ill defined diseases	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
Suicide	—	—	—
Homicide & operations of War	—	—	—
Total ...	28	27	55

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15								
25								
35								
45	1							
55	1							
65 and upwards								
Totals	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

From the above table it will be seen that two cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1950. No deaths from tuberculosis were recorded. During the previous year one death was recorded from respiratory tuberculosis.

Mass Radiography

During January, 1950 arrangements were made for the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit. During its stay in the Borough a total of 545 persons attended for examination. Whilst no cases of active tuberculous conditions were found, a total of seven males were found to be suffering from post primary lesions, considered at the time of examination to be inactive.

It is hoped to arrange for a further visit of the Unit during 1951 and that there will be a greater response from the general public.

TUBERCULOSIS (Environmental Survey)

An inquiry into the environment of notified cases of tuberculosis residing in the borough was carried out during 1950.

This investigation was undertaken to ascertain the actual number of notified cases of tuberculosis living in the town; their housing accommodation; the conditions favouring the spread of the disease, and the practical steps being taken to prevent the spread of infection.

As a result of this investigation the number of cases of notified tuberculosis on the Register was reduced from forty-six to seventeen. This reduction in numbers was due to twenty two cases having recovered; three cases having left the town, three dying, and one case being considered as not tuberculous.

Of the seventeen cases quoted above, twelve were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and the remaining five were affected with the non-respiratory form of the disease.

The following table shows the numbers involved and the rates expressed per 1000 of the total population of the Borough.

Pulmonary cases			Non-Pulmonary cases		
Males	...	6	Males	...	2
Females	...	6	Females	...	3
		<hr/>			<hr/>
Total		12	Total		5
Rate :—	2.2 per 1000		Rate:	.91 per 1000	
Grand Total:			17 (which represents a rate of 3.1 per 1000 of the total population)		

The homes of the persons concerned were visited during this survey and detailed records were compiled showing the precise type of tenancy, state of repair, lighting, ventilation, etc. With the exception of two cases who were tenants of Council property, the remainder of the tuberculous cases were occupying private property. With the exception of one case, the lighting and ventilation of the property was found to be adequate. Although the general standard of cleanliness and management of the homes was found to be either very good, or good, nine homes of a total of seventeen were without bathroom facilities.

Good and sufficient housing is essential in preventing tuberculosis both by raising the health of the population generally, and by permitting the infectious pulmonary case to live in conditions on his return from a Sanatorium favourable to the maintenance of his health and that of his family

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

During the year one case was represented to the Council for action under Section 47 of this Act. It was not necessary however to apply for a removal Order, as the person concerned agreed to enter a hospital voluntarily.

FOOD POISONING

No outbreaks of food poisoning were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following children completed a full course of immunisation during 1950.

Ages 0—4 years
47

Ages 5—14 years
156

Total:— 203

The total immunised child population at 31/12/50 is as follows:—

Ages 0—4 years
299

Ages 5—14 years
751

Total:— 1050

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am indebted to Mr. T. V. Oliver for the following information on Water Supplies, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal and Sanitation.

RAINFALL.

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9.0 a.m. every day; from this information the following table has been compiled:—

Month	Total Rainfall Inches	Greatest Fall in 24 hours	Number of days with .01 or more recorded
January ...	0.50	.22 5th	6
February ...	5.32	.68 2nd	19
March ...	1.25	.30 16th	11
April ...	2.47	.59 17th	19
May ...	2.93	1.10 21st	10
June ...	2.12	.48 22nd	11
July ..	6.52	1.27 15th	18
August ...	3.52	.56 25th	18
September ...	4.14	.90 30th	23
October ...	1.02	.19 30th	10
November ...	5.98	1.24 20th	19
December ..	1.82	.41 31st	10
	37.59	— —	174

During the year there was a DRY SPELL between 25th February and 13th March inclusive.

In the previous year October was the wettest month (7.09 inches) and June was the driest (0.48 inches).

The average rainfall for the previous 5 years was 29.22 inches.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Wet Days	4	16	8	14	9	9	15	16	20	10	18	10	149
Rain Days	2	3	3	5	1	2	3	2	3	—	1	—	25
Dry Days	25	9	20	11	21	19	13	13	7	21	11	21	191

WATER SUPPLY.

The water undertaking has been owned by the Town Council since December, 1947. The area served by the Calne Water Orders 1882 to 1938 includes the Municipal Borough and the Parish of Calne Without in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

The supply is obtained from Lower Greensand Springs at Calstone Wellington, about 3 miles to the south-east of the town in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

It is of good quality and non-plumbo solvent. The water is chlorinated at the source.

The consumption per capita per diem is 26 gallons for all purposes.

The number of houses in the Borough still relying on well water for their domestic supply is 15, or less than one per centum of all the inhabited houses in the district. Three of these houses are beyond the existing water mains and of the others the wells have been subjected to analyses and have in general been passed as fit for potable purposes.

There are no street standpipes.

No complaints of shortage of water were received during the year.

Samples of town water are taken frequently for bacteriological examination and the Analyst's Reports on the raw water are invariably to the effect that it shows no evidence of harmful pollution.

The Chemical Report on the latest sample taken is as follows:—

Appearance:	Clear, colourless:	no sediment
Reaction .	pH 7.1	
		Parts per 100,000
Free Carbon Dioxide		3.3
Free and Saline Ammonia		Less than .001
Albuminoid Ammonia		.003
Chlorine (as Chlorides)		1.1
equivalent to Sodium Chloride		1.8
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)		0.024
Nitrite		absent
Nitrogen in Nitrate and Nitrite		0.26
Total Solids		41.5
Loss on ignition		3.0
Appearance on ignition		Slight charring
Hardness: Temporary		28.8
Permanent		2.6
		<hr/>
		31.4
Lead and Copper		absent
Zinc		absent

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is now sewered, although there will always be, of necessity, a few houses, mostly isolated, which either drain into septic tanks or are provided with earth closets.

The number of houses not connected to the main drainage system at the end of 1950 was 84 or 5% of all the inhabited houses in the district. Half of this number are outside the drainage area.

The condition of the outfall sewer, which has been in existence for nearly 70 years, gives rise to constant anxiety, particularly where it runs parallel with and/or close to the River Marden. A scheme is being prepared for an enlarged outfall sewer on a new alignment in the Marden Valley between the town and the Disposal Works.

The length of town sewers is approximately 9 miles, to which must be added the length of the outfall sewer and effluent sewer from the outfall works to the river approximately 2 miles.

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the north-west of the town, and were modernised in 1928 at a cost of approximately £19,000. Hitherto, by careful management, the required standard has, generally speaking, been maintained.

Nevertheless, with the continual growth of the town and the possibility of taking the sewage from the hamlets of Derry Hill and Studley in the parish of Calne Without (Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council), the enlargement of the works is under review.

In the meantime, as the average dry-weather flow is more than double the amount for which the works were originally designed, blocks of "Aluminoferic" are placed in the inlet channels of the continuous flow sedimentation tanks to assist in the precipitation of the sewage, thus relieving the amount of work the filter beds are called upon to do. So far the results have been entirely satisfactory as it is estimated that by this method the capacity of the works has been temporarily increased by some 225 per centum.

A sample of the final effluent was taken on 16th August last and the Analyst's Report on the sample was as follows:—

Appearance. Fairly cloudy, yellow colour. Earthy smell.

Reaction. pH 7.2.

	Parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.31
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.22
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	130.0
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	215.0
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	1.0
Nitrite	Strong reaction
Nitrogen in Nitrite and Nitrate	2.4
Dissolved solids	264.5
Suspended Solids	1.8
Total Solids	266.3
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed after 5 days' incubation (B.O.D.)	1.6
"Impurity" figure	16

Stability Test.

No change when incubated 48 hrs. at blood heat.

The effluent is satisfactory and the figures are well within the limits laid down by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. The effluent is well nitrated and the high chloride is doubtless due to local industry.

It may be added that the above figures show a purification index of 81.91%.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

House refuse is collected weekly from every house, under contract, the receptacles being placed at the kerbside by the householder. A scheme is in course of preparation for the collection of house refuse and salvage by direct labour.

The tip is at Calne Low about a mile to the east of the town in worked-out sand pits owned by Messrs. E. H. Bradley & Sons. The tip is sprayed with D.D.T. liquid concentrate regularly each week during the summer months in order to combat the fly nuisance, and is regularly inspected and baited to prevent rat infestations.

HOUSING.

The Town Council have erected to date 413 houses under the various Housing Acts since 1919 (including 4 at Quemerford taken over from the former Calne R.D.C. in the Borough extension of 1934 and 2 in The Pippin sold to owner/occupiers). Included in this number are 122 houses erected since 1945. In addition, the Council own 21 other houses in the district.

Seven houses have been requisitioned under the Defence Regulations and two houses are rented (including a former Air Ministry hut).

Four applications were received for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, one of which had been approved by the Ministry at the end of the year.

One house was completed by private enterprise during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

A rodent operator is employed to act jointly as between the Borough and the adjoining Calne and Chippenham Rural District in the proportion of 20% and 80%.

As usual, the systematic treatment of sewers, refuse tips and other Local Authority properties was carried out during the year.

A few major and minor infestations were found and all were dealt with.

Several large retail food-stores as well as the Bacon Factory have standing contracts with commercial firms, subject to the over-riding supervision of the rodent operator, and there is close co-operation between all parties concerned.

The rodent operator reports on his activities during 1950 as follows:—

Altogether 10 weeks were spent in the Borough and during this period the Town Council's refuse tip at Calne Low was treated with satisfactory results.

A maintenance treatment was also given to infested parts of the town sewers; altogether 46 manholes were baited and good "takes" were recorded. The estimated kill was between 50 and 60.

Early in the year, part of the river bank in the Horsebrook area was inspected and showed a minor infestation. This was treated with satisfactory results, the estimated kill in this case being 60.

In the autumn, the ditch bordering the former allotment land at Bryans Close was found to be heavily infested but here again treatment proved most satisfactory, the estimated kill being 100

Other properties inspected during the year included business premises, council houses, and private properties. Several minor infestations were discovered and dealt with, the aggregate number of rats killed being estimated at between 170 and 190.

During the year, 227 inspections were made and 510 rats destroyed: the materials used being 135 lbs. of sausage rusk, 46 lbs. of bread mash and 39 ozs. of poison, chiefly zinc phosphide.

There are 1846 premises in the district in the following types:—

Local Authority's Properties	—	432
Dwelling houses	—	1193
Business Premises	—	209
Agricultural Properties	—	12

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

General

With reference to Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Town Council have resolved to adopt Byelaws to secure the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold, or intended for sale, for human consumption and in connection with the sale of food or exposure of food for sale in the open air. Confirmation of such Byelaws is transferred to the Minister of Food under the Transfer of Functions (Food and Drugs Order, 1948). Representative meetings have been held and a "Clean Food" Appeal has been made to Employers and Employees.

Meat

Since 7th May, 1943, all slaughtering of animals to provide meat for human consumption has been centralised at Chippenham.

There is a part-time Veterinary Inspector employed at the local Bacon Factory who reports regularly to the Medical Officer of Health,

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, the number of licensed slaughtermen in the district is 22. They are all employed at Messrs. C. & T. Harris' Bacon Factory.

There are two holders of Game Licenses.

The amount of meat condemned by the Sanitary Inspector in the town was $9\frac{3}{4}$ lb. cooked ham, 20 lb. lamb livers and 183 lb. beef

Fish

There are three retailers of fresh fish and two fried-fish establishments in the district. The supply has been fair throughout the year, having regard to the difficult circumstances prevailing.

The trade is carried on satisfactorily.

Milk

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Borough Council is responsible for the registration of dairies, other than dairy farms, and registration of milk distributors. They are also responsible, under these Regulations, for the provisions relating to the conveyance and distribution of milk outside dairy farms. (Sections 8, 11—14 and 18—31)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for seeing that the regulations relating to the production and handling of milk on dairy farms are observed, together with the issue of or the suspension and revocation of producers' licences and appeals arising therefrom.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority for the county area, with the exception of the Borough of Swindon, is responsible for granting of licences to pasteurisers and sterilisers, or their refusal, suspension or revocation and appeals thereunder as the case may be.

Two retailers hold Dealers' Bottling Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and one retailer has a Dealers' Retailing Licence to use the designations "Pasteurised" and "Tuberculin Tested" Milk, which is bottled in the neighbouring district.

There are also two retailers of ordinary milk resident in the district and two who operate from without.

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

Milk is supplied daily, during term, to the Secondary Modern, Secondary Grammar, C. of E. Junior, Guthrie Infant and Holy Trinity C. of E. Junior schools in the town.

Five samples of "Tuberculin Tested" and one of "Accredited" milk were analysed for cleanliness and each sample complied with the prescribed standards. In every case the milk was produced outside the district but retailed within the town area.

No points have arisen during the year to which special attention need be drawn.

Ice Cream

Eleven premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, two of which are registered for manufacture as well as for sale.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in getting samples to the analyst within a reasonable time.

The two manufacturers carry out their obligations in a satisfactory manner. The supplies to the other retailers, which are all prepacked, are very irregular.

Analyses of samples of both local and proprietary manufacture show them to be up to Grade I and Grade II standards.

Other Foods

During the year 520 tins, bottles or jars of foodstuffs were condemned owing to the contents having become unfit through blown or damaged tins, faulty cappings, etc., also 1 box of sweetened fat weighing 56 lb.; 37 lb. currants, 14 boxes prunes each weighing 30 lb. and 25 lb. tea.

The food shops (including the five registered bake-houses) and vehicles are inspected from time to time. No official action has been necessary, either with regard to the vehicles, shops or the sanitary conveniences used in connection therewith. The number of food shops in the district is 32.

SHOPS

The Shops Act, 1950, came into force during the year. It is a consolidation Act and makes no change in the existing law.

No statutory action has been necessary.

The number of inspections made for this purpose during the year was 37.

Factories Act, 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories, Act, 1937 which are required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of that Act with respect to the matters under Part I and Part VIII which are administered by the District Council.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1		13	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by Local Authority. ...	2	47	9	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (exclud- ing out-workers premises)	3		3	—	—	3
TOTAL ...		47	25	—	—	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	...	2	2	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	1	1	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	...	1	1	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient	...	1	1	—	—	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	1	1	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	...	6	6	—	—	—	60
TOTAL	...	6	6	—	—	—	60

One outworker is registered under Section 110—Homework.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

The following is a summary of the year's work under article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

Dwelling houses inspected	307
Re-inspections and visits	126
Inspections for housing records	52
Registered and licensed premises inspected	62
Miscellaneous sanitary duties involving visits	176
Complaints received and inspected	58

The tabulated list of major improvements is as follows:—

Number of new houses connected to main drainage system	44
Number of new houses connected to main water supply	45
Number of existing houses connected to main drainage system	1
New drain lengths constructed and tested	48
Drain obstructions cleared	42
W.C. obstructions cleared	7
New W.C.'s constructed to existing houses	7
W.C. pans repaired or renewed	3
New sinks, baths or lavatory basins fixed to existing houses	8
Houses disinfected	3
Houses re-decorated internally	16
Floors repaired or renewed	19
Roofs repaired or renewed	82
External walls repaired	20
Walls re-plastered	15
Cellings repaired or re-plastered	8
Rain-water pipes or gutters repaired or renewed	47
W C. cisterns repaired or renewed	116
Waste pipes cleared, repaired or renewed	26
Minor repairs and miscellaneous	332

